



1744

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
A. Costa, et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1744  
Serial No.: 09/876,364 ) Examiner: unknown  
Filed: June 7, 2001 )  
For: VESSELS AND COVERS )

December 9, 2003  
Attorney Docket No. 14077/257986

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Alan W. Kimm  
Signature

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted prior to examination of the above-identified  
patent application.